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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/704,434	11/02/2000	Yuichi Yamagami	2271/62705	4780

7590

08/22/2006

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EXAMINER
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WEBB, JAMISUE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3629

DATE MAILED: 08/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/704,434

Applicant(s)

YAMAGAMI ET AL.

Examiner

Jamisue A. Webb

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 June 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 17 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-6, 8-12, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Arunapuram et al. (US 2002/0019759).
3. With respect to Claims 1-3, 6 and 18: Arunapuram discloses the use of a method for shipping items which can be from a first country to a second country (Paragraphs 0066 and 0068) comprising the steps:
  - a. Fulfilling order in a first country, packaging the items in the first country and consolidating the individual packages for a collective international shipment (Paragraphs 0077 and 0081);
  - b. Shipping the collective shipment to a second country (Paragraphs 0077 and 0081)
  - c. Dividing the collective shipment in the second country into individual packages and delivering the packages to the customer (crossdock, paragraph 0077);
  - d. Providing a first shipping charge (Charge based on Total WD, weight distance, S1 + S2, Page 15, Arunapuram discloses that the rates are calculated for each leg of route as well as total, paragraph 0077);

- e. Providing a second shipping charge related to a virtual supplier location (the examiner considers the cross dock, or the port in the US, to be the virtual location, therefore the second charge would be the charge associated with the second leg of the route, S2);
  - f. Computing a difference between the first and second charges (Arunapuram discloses getting the ratios of each leg, and where the rates are associated with each ratio, Paragraphs 0138 and 0140); and
  - g. Utilizing the computer difference to manage the allocation of costs (See Paragraphs 0126-0141), or utilizing the difference for managing unbilled shipping charges during a predetermined period of time (Paragraphs 0122 and 0165, as well as 0039, where Arunapuram discloses the orders can be run in batches, therefore the examiner considers this to be a determined time period-, however often the batches are run).
4. With respect to Claim 4: Arunapuram discloses utilizing weights to calculate rates, using rate tables (Paragraph 0104).
5. With respect to Claim 5: Arunapuram discloses utilizing zone rating for calculation of rates with in the US, which is the second country (Paragraphs 102 and 109).
6. With respect to Claims 8 and 9: Arunapuram discloses the first charche includes shipping individual packages within the 2<sup>nd</sup> country and includes the charge for shipping the collective shipment from the first country to the second country (the examiner considers the first charge to be the total charge, which would include all charges, for each route leg, Paragraphs 0077, and page 15, Total WD).

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7. With respect to Claim 10: Arunapuram discloses that computing the second shipping charge comprising using a table for zone rating (Paragraphs 104 and 109).
8. With respect to Claim 11: Arunapuram discloses the calculating of the second shipping charge includes weight information (All rates calculated are based on weight, Paragraphs 0038, 0065 and 0104).
9. With respect to Claim 12: Arunapuram discloses the calculating of the second charge uses both weight and distance, which if shipped in the US, carriers such as UPS, use zones, instead of strait distance, therefore uses weight and zones (Paragraphs 102, 109)
10. With respect to Claim 13: Arunapuram discloses processing multiple order is optimization batches (Paragraph 0039). The examiner considers this to be carrying out the steps for a related time period, then repeating the steps for successive time periods.
11. With respect to Claim 17: Arunapuram discloses setting the second charges without referencing the first charge (each leg is calculated on its own, therefore the first charge references the second charge not the other way around, see Paragraphs 0066, 0071 and 0077).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arunapuram et al. (US 2002/0019759).

14. With respect to Claim 7: Arunapuram, as disclosed above, discloses multiple legs of the route being determined, and shipped using a shipping entity, however fails to disclose the entities which ship the consolidated shipment and the entities which ship the individual shipments are the same entity. This limitation is deemed to be non-functional descriptive material nonfunctional and is not functionally involved in the steps recited. The shipping steps would be performed the same regardless of what entity is actually carrying the shipment. Thus this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, see *In re Gulack*, 703 F .2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed.Cir.1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F .3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Arunapuram, to have the shipping entities be the same for the entire route, in order to simplify the freight movement, so there does not have to be any coordination of different entities.

### ***Response to Arguments***

15. With respect to the previously made 112 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph rejections: These rejections have been dropped due to the submitted amendment.

16. With respect to Applicant's arguments that Arunapuram is not a valid reference: The applicant has stated that Arunapuram cannot be used as a reference due to the fact that the provisional application is not written in the form of a patent application, therefore there is no continuity of disclosure. Where as the Arunapuram reference may not be written as a patent application, the rules of a provisional application does not state that it has to. In the provisional Application, the Appendix (what the applicant was referring to as independent documents) are

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considered to be part of the disclosure in the provisional application and therefore if subject matter in the Arunapuram reference is found in the Appendices of Arunapuram then the subject matter is supported by the provisional application and there is sufficient continuity of subject matter and the provisional date can be used. Arunapuram in the supporting Appendices shows the method/software used to perform the tasks and methods in the reference. The appendices disclose allocating cost, and determining the cost per leg of the shipping route, which is what is relied upon in Arunapuram, and therefore is granted the date of the priority document, and is a valid reference for the rejection used in the non-final action. (see above).

17. With respect to Applicant's arguments that Arunapuram does not disclose teach the utilizing step of for managing charges, as claimed: It should be noted that the independent claims do not disclose what steps are used in the utilizing step, they do not disclose how they are utilized, nor claim any steps on how the computed differences are managed, merely states that they are managed. Therefore the examiner considers Arunapuram to disclose a method of utilizing differences to manage cost allocation, therefore Arunapuram discloses the claimed invention.

18. The applicant has made a blanket statements that Arunapuram does not disclose what the examiner states it discloses. The examiner considers Arunapuram to disclose the claimed steps and have pointed to sections in the reference where Arunapuram disclose this. The applicant has not provided any reasoning or explanation why the cited sections of the reference does not disclose what the examiner states it does. Therefore absent any arguments as to how the claimed invention and the reference are different or why the reference does not read on the claimed

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invention, the examiner considers the arguments to be unpersuasive, and the rejections stand as stated above.

***Conclusion***

19. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

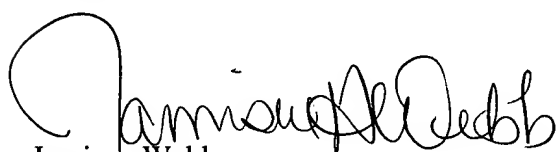
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jamisue A. Webb whose telephone number is (571) 272-6811. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30 - 4:00).

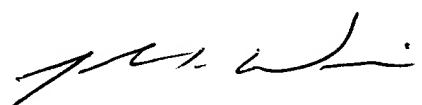
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Jamisue Webb  
8/16/06

  
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